

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/27/09 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, and 33-42 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Tucker on 9/25/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

33. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing the following components for implementing a sync community:

a first application program that maintains a first replica in a first data store, the first application program defining a profile for a sync adapter, the sync adapter to be

used to synchronize the first replica in the first data store with a second replica in a second data store;

a sync controller that instantiates the sync adapter based on the profile defined by the first application program, the profile specifying the following:

a local folder on the first data store that serves as the source and destination of changes to the first or second replica; and

one or more conflict resolution policies to be applied to resolve conflicts between the first and second replicas;

a sync runtime module that provides services to the sync adapter, wherein the services provided by the sync runtime module to the sync adapter include a change enumeration service that compares a first knowledge of the first replica with a second knowledge of the second replica to enumerate changes that are described by the second knowledge and absent from the first knowledge, the first knowledge comprising information describing a set of changes to the first replica; and

the sync adapter that is configured to access the services of the sync runtime module to synchronize the first replica in the first data store with the second replica in the second data store, wherein the sync adapter synchronizes the first replica with the second replica using the change enumeration service of the sync runtime module by comparing the first knowledge with the second knowledge to determine changes that have been made to the second replica of which the first replica is unaware and requesting the changes from the second replica.

34. (Currently amended) The medium system as defined in claim 33, wherein the services provided by the sync runtime module are accessed by the sync adapter using an applications programming interface.

35. (Currently amended) The medium system as defined in claim 33, wherein the services further comprise a conflict detection service that uses the first knowledge of the first replica and the second knowledge of the second replica as well as the conflict resolution policies in the profile to detect and resolve conflicts.

36. (Currently amended) The medium system as defined in claim 35, wherein the conflict detection service detects a conflict when a change enumerated by the first replica is not in the second knowledge of the second replica and a change enumerated by the second replica is not in the first knowledge of the first replica.

37. (Currently amended) The medium system as defined in claim 35, wherein the conflict detection service further comprises a conflict resolution module.

38. (Currently amended) The medium system as defined in claim 37, wherein the conflict resolution module implements a conflict policy identified in a profile or included in a pluggable conflict resolution module.

39. (Currently amended) The medium system as defined in claim 33, wherein the profile further identifies one or more of:

a source folder of the second replica; a destination folder of the second replica; a first filter to filter changes that are enumerated at the first replica; a second filter to filter changes retrieved from the second replica; and a transformation for converting an item from the second replica to a format of the first replica.

40. (Currently amended) The medium system as defined in claim 33, wherein the services further comprises one or more of:

an item ID matching service, wherein second item IDs of the second replica are provided by the particular adapter during a receive sync and first item IDs of the first replica are provided by the sync runtime module during a send sync;
a sync interruptability service that includes exceptions in a remote knowledge; and
a service that prevents changes from reflecting to and from the first replica.

41. (Currently amended) The medium system as defined in claim 33, wherein the services further comprises a sync metadata management service that stores a remote knowledge for the particular adapter.

42. (Currently amended) The medium system as defined in claim 41, wherein the sync metadata management service stores a local knowledge used by the particular adapter.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
5. Applicant's invention utilizes a first application program which defines a profile for a sync adapter, a sync controller that instantiates the sync adapter based on the profile for the sync adapter, a sync runtime module that provides services to the sync adapter, and the sync adapter uses the services of the sync runtime module to synchronize two replica computers. Although the techniques of synchronization are well known in the art, the prior art does not teach this specific combination of elements used to synchronize two computer replicas.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey R. Swearingen whose telephone number is (571)272-3921. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on 571-272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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